

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

619480

25X1

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| COUNTRY | East Germany | REPORT | |
| SUBJECT | Explosives Industry | DATE DISTR. | 22 June 1954 |
| DATE OF INFO. | | NO. OF PAGES | 2 |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | | REQUIREMENT NO. | RD |
| | | REFERENCES | 25X1 |

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. The central authority concerning the manufacture and distribution of explosives, igniters and pyrotechnical products is the DHZ-Chemie, Zentralverwaltung Pyrotechnik und Sprengbedarf, Berlin N.W.7. The production of explosives and igniters is now concentrated at Schoenebeck/Elbe and Gnaschwitz; a small factory for pyrotechnical products was reopened at Silberhuette in 1950.
2. VEB Sprengstoffwerk I, Schoenebeck/Elbe
 - a) This is the former Lignose concern to which part of the production of the dismantled WASAG¹ Reinsdorf, Vereinigte Zuender- u. Kabelwerke, Meissen and Sellier & Bellet, Schoenebeck factories has been transferred.
 - b) The explosives workshops have been enlarged considerably since the end of the war. The smokeless powder plant, which was removed from the WASAG factory, has been set up but is not in operation.
 - c) Personnel:
 - Factory manager - Hemperich (fnu)
 - Tech. director - Dr. Kreuter (fnu)
 - Chemist - Ellert (fnu)
 - Employees - About 2,000
 - d) Estimated monthly production:
 - A-explosives about 1,000 tons
 - Chloratit-explosives " 200 tons
 - e) There is only a small demand for Chloratit because of the presence of gas in the majority of the potash mines.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---------|---|------|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| STATE | X | ARMY Ev | X | NAVY | X | AIR | X | FBI | | AEC | | | | | |
|-------|---|---------|---|------|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#".)

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

3. VEB Sprengstoffwerk II, Gnaschwitz

a) This is a combine of the former Sprengstoff u. Zunderschnurwerke AG Pulverfabrik des Bergreviers Freiberg und Bruecker & Zinke Meissen. AG Pulverfabrik des Bergreviers Freiberg und Bruecker & Zinke Meissen.

b) Personnel:

Gnaschwitz: Factory Manager Wagner (fnu), employees: about 400
 Freiberg : " Brosch (fnu)
 Meissen : " Dietze (fnu)

c) Estimated monthly production:

400-500 tons of A-explosives, mostly Gelatine-Donarit for Wismut AG Aue.
 No figures are available for the powder factory, Freiberg or the fuse factory, Meissen.

4. J.F. Eisfeld G.m.b.H., Silberhuetten

Manufactures pyrotechnical products. Employs about 100 workers.

5. The planned production of explosives and igniters for 1953 was completed by September 1953, but these items are in very short supply because of the lack of raw materials. Brass is being used as a substitute for copper in the manufacture of detonators, resulting in products of poor quality. Packing materials are also scarce, and the use of the prescribed colors for the paper wrappings of various types of explosives is often disregarded.

6. All orders for explosives are handled by DHZ-Chemie, which authorizes the factories to effect deliveries or the consumers to draw supplies from one of the following explosives distribution depots:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Muenchen near Weimar | Goest (sic) near Pirna |
| Suhl, Thuringen | Ruedersdorf near Berlin |
| Lugau, Erzgebirge | |

7. The current prices for explosives and igniters are as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--------|---------------------|
| Donarit 1 | DME | 123.— | per 100 kg. |
| " 2 | | 118.— | " " " |
| Gelatine-Donarit | | 143.— | " " " |
| Wetter-Detonit | | 104.— | " " " |
| " Arit | | 122.— | " " " |
| " Baldurit | | 110.— | " " " |
| Chloratit 2 | | 90.— | " " " |
| Blasting powder | | 140.— | " " " |
| Detonators No. 8 | | 38.50 | per 1000 pieces |
| Electrical underwater detonators... | | 192.60 | " " " |
| | | | (very poor quality) |
| Tarred fuse cord | | 105.90 | per 1000 meters |
| Igelit waterproof fuse cord | | 135.— | " " " |

The prices above are subject to a supplementary charge by DHZ-Chemie of 3% on explosives and detonators, and 12% on fuse cord.

1. Comment: Westfaelishh-Anhalt, Sprengstoff A.G.
 (Westphalian-Anhalt Explosives Corp.)

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY